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Governor

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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

June 11, 2013

Robin Hansen  
Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078

Subject: Review of Reclamation Surety, Alan Chew, Flagstone/Split Mountain Project,  
S/047/0061, UTU 66378, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Hansen:

The last surety estimate for the Split Mountain Flagstone quarry mine was done in 2006 in the amount of \$2,524.91. The Division's current reclamation cost estimate based on average costs per acre for a small mining operation (escalated to 2016 dollars) is \$9,400.00 for the first acre of disturbance. The surety amount for this project needs to be adjusted to account for changes in reclamation costs.

The Division understands based on a recent phone conversation that the operator is not authorized to mine because he has not submitted a plan of operations to the BLM since 2008-2009. Nevertheless, there is disturbance that needs to be either reclaimed or permitted and bonded.

The Division recognizes that this site is unique in the sense that this quarry operation is located on a canyon rim where minimal amounts of earthwork would be required for reclamation. Based on field inspections, reclamation work would primarily involve the disposal of wooden pallets and removal or on-site redistribution of multiple stockpiles of flagstone. Mobilization and labor costs would likely be the greatest expenses.

The Division proposes an increase in bond amount to \$4,700.00, which is one half of the current \$9,400.00 rate for the first acre of disturbance. Please provide us with your input and/or concurrence on this amount.

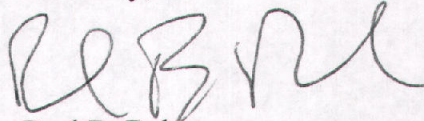


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We understand that this parcel is part of a land exchange between the BLM and the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) where the parcel is currently in the transition stage to SITLA ownership. Until the land exchange is official, however, the Division will work with you to resolve this issue.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact April Abate at 801-538-5214 or me at 801-538-5261 if you have questions about this letter or if you would like to further discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'PBB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul B. Baker  
Mining Program Manager

PBB:aa:pb

cc: Andy Beddingfield-SITLA

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